

Arts Lab 101: The Results Are In

Engaging California's Students and Educators through the Arts

A WestEd Evaluation of
Arts in Education Demonstration Grants
from the California Arts Council





The California Arts Council has a long history of engagement in arts education. The Arts in Education Demonstration Grants helped to identify and support arts programs that worked in schools revealing ways in which a well-constructed arts education program could demonstrate real measurable gains in both cognitive and affective areas, demonstrating the importance of arts to the complete education of every child. While basic to the funded activities was the interaction of students with the arts, the 58 grantees each chose different program elements and explained their project within the context of their own educational hypothesis. This individual project diversity coupled with the project requirement of a rigorous outcome evaluation produced greater meaning to the results as a whole.

The results coalesced to provide a big picture for arts education, finding common strands and added value in all 58 projects. The consistent change and improvement observed in the Demonstration Projects positively affected students, teachers, administrators, parents, and communities, and was an opportunity to develop sound and consistent best practices for replication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Carrillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Juan M. Carrillo
Interim Director

INTRODUCTION

In Fiscal Year 2000-2001, Governor Davis and the Legislature increased the Arts Council budget by \$10 million to build the capacity for arts education services to our schools. This historic increase created the opportunity for the Arts Council to dramatically increase its arts education offerings. The California Arts Council's (CAC) Demonstration Projects, a component of the CAC's Arts in Education Program, were created to evaluate how art makes a difference in the learning opportunities for K-12 students and teachers. Each funded project was a partnership between an arts organization and an educational institution. Fifty-eight projects served 92,653 students, and 4,138 teachers in 2,684 classrooms in 496 schools throughout 185 districts.

The Arts in Education Program's mission is to make arts basic and integral to schools and define workable models that describe how and why those models can be successful. Through the Demonstration Projects, 58 grantees were funded to provide arts education activities during the 2001-02 school year; 55 were selected to receive continued funding for a second year. Each grantee was asked to think of their project as an experiment--a laboratory for the mixture of arts and education. The Arts Council required grantees to include an evaluation component for each project. WestEd, a nationally known nonprofit research, development and service agency for more than 35 years, was contracted to provide an overall program evaluation and technical assistance. While the Demonstration Projects were intended to be funded three to five years, state budget cuts decreased funding in the second year and completely eliminated support for subsequent years.

Throughout the evaluation, WestEd used a combination of methods to learn about project characteristics as well as the successes and challenges encountered during implementation. WestEd used content analysis, case studies, and developed a statewide system of measures to gather qualitative and quantitative data. This report focuses on some of the knowledge gained through the project to answer hypotheses about arts education. It also represents questions where further study is needed.

The full evaluation report can be found on the CAC website, www.cac.ca.gov.

what we found . . .

Arts participation improves academic achievement

- Art integration at a community day school for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders found students improved their language skills an average of one grade level and math skills an average of two grade levels. (Yuba County Office of Education)
- Significant increases were found in district writing scores among students who participated in playwriting workshops; scores for a similar group of students not participating in the project showed no increase. (Playwrights Project)

Participation in the arts improves attitudes and behavior in school

- The average number of absences for Native American students participating in the project was significantly lower than a comparison group of students not in the project. Additionally, participating students were less likely to be absent during artist visits than any other day of the week. (Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District)
- Survey results indicated a 40 percent increase in students' ability to work together and participate in team activities. Students also scored higher than a comparison group of students in peer negotiation, leadership skills, and team working abilities. (San Jose Children's Musical Theater)



Willy Matsen, Grade 3
Hoopa Valley Elementary

Arts participation improves creativity

- One project reported fourth graders with California Arts Council-funded instruction had a significantly higher average on a teacher measure of creativity than fourth graders from the previous year who did not receive the arts instruction. (Cal Poly State University)
- Several projects reported an increasing trend of students indicating they would be interested in a job that would require a lot of their talents. (Cultural Odyssey, The Heart Project, Institute for the Renewal of Modern Culture, Riverside Arts Council)

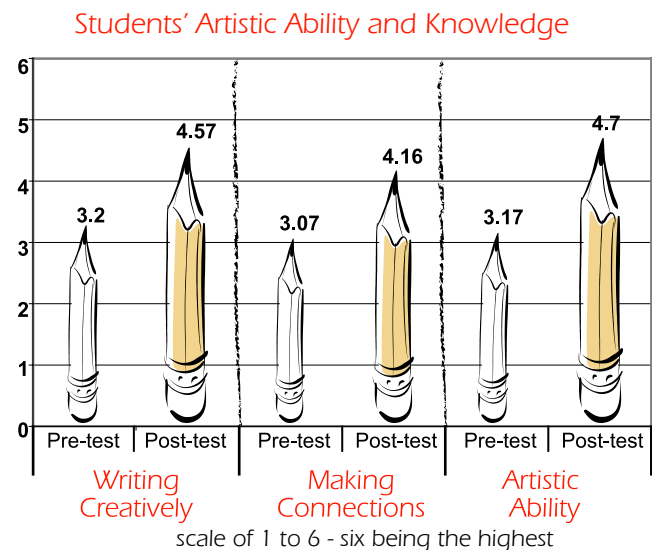
Students participating in the arts have a healthier self-concept or self-efficacy

- Survey data showed students participating in the project had better self-concepts than a comparison group of students. (Cal Poly State University)
- A measure of writing self-efficacy revealed significant improvements among students participating in the project. Further, project students' scores increased while scores from a comparison group decreased. (Playwrights Project)

Arts education improves artistic ability and knowledge

Across the state, teachers indicated statistically significant improvements in their students' artistic ability.

- Students were engaged and writing more creatively. (Multiple Projects)
- Connections were made between art and other subjects. (Multiple Projects)
- Improved artistic ability. (Multiple Projects)
- Teacher surveys reflected significant differences between treatment and comparison groups in the following areas: creative and engaging writing, making connections between art and other subjects, critiquing other's artwork, using art-related materials, learning art skills, getting familiar with arts vocabulary, and identifying art elements. (CSU, Sacramento-MOSAICS)
- Students receiving poetry instruction scored significantly higher than a comparison group on all poetry-related items of a survey on student artistic ability and creative writing. Teacher and artist retrospective surveys also showed significant improvement in students' poetry-related abilities. (California Poets in the Schools)



Teachers gain confidence, knowledge and skills in using the arts

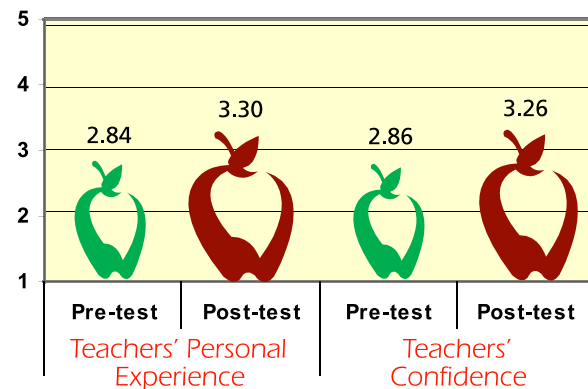
When teachers learned from artists, teachers' confidence, knowledge and skills for using the arts in the classroom increased both in individual projects and statewide.

- Personal experience in teaching the arts. (Multiple Projects)

- Confidence in teaching art. (Multiple Projects)

- Teachers participating in an Arts in Education Demonstration Project reported significantly higher confidence, knowledge and skills for using the arts than a comparison group. (Merced County Arts Council)

Teachers' Experience = Confidence



scale of 1 to 5 - five being the highest

- After participating in a literacy though dramatic arts project, teachers listed specific skills acquired through the project. Teachers were very confident in their ability to teach literacy though the arts. (Brava! Center for the Arts)

Teachers reach students who would not otherwise receive arts education

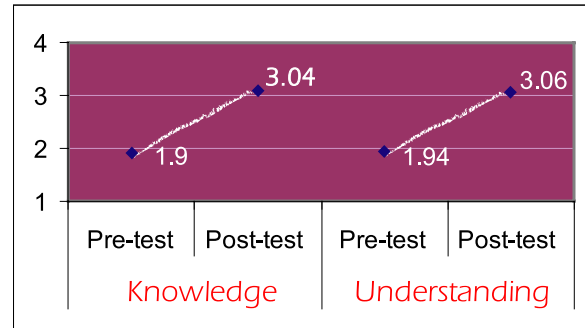
- Teacher survey data showed significant increases in support for the arts within the schools, a common vision of the arts, and sharing ideas and materials related to the arts. Teachers also reported stronger administrative support for the arts. (Young Audiences of San Jose and Silicon Valley)
- A project focused on the performing arts reported 94 percent of principals reporting their schools offer performing arts-related assemblies and field trips, 82 percent reporting that parents financially support performing arts activities, and 75 percent reporting that professional development opportunities in the performing arts were available to teachers. (UC Davis Presents)
- Arts Council funding allowed one project to double the funds available to participating middle schools to purchase supplies and instructional time. These resources facilitated more focused arts instruction and integration of the arts into other subject areas. (Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County)

Teachers awareness of the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Standards increases

Teachers were much more aware of the VAPA standards as evidenced by individual project and statewide findings.

- Teachers' knowledge about VAPA Standards increased. (Multiple Projects)
- Teachers' understanding of the VAPA Standards increased. (Multiple Projects)
- Significant improvements were found on teachers' understanding and use of the VAPA Standards, with the mean score increasing one full point on a four-point scale. (Arts Orange County)
- Teachers reported significant increases in familiarity with the VAPA Standards, and understanding of the different components of arts education. (City of Glendale)

Teachers' Knowledge and Understanding of VAPA Standards



scale of 1 to 4 - four being the highest

Teachers are able to successfully integrate arts into other core curriculum

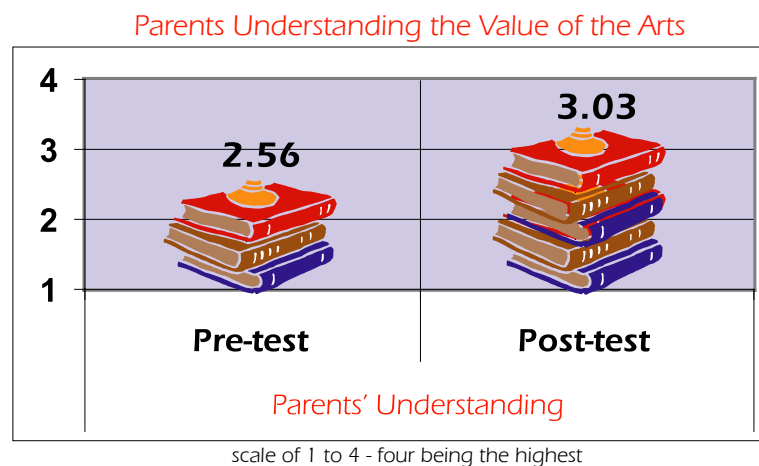
- Teacher surveys revealed statistically significant increases in their ability to use the VAPA Standards and integrate art into the curriculum. Three-quarters (75%) of teachers reported the project adequately prepared them to integrate art across the curriculum. (Young Audiences of San Jose and Silicon Valley)
- Teachers from a project school were significantly more likely to use the arts to teach other core subject areas than a comparison group of teachers from a non-participating school. (Merced County Arts Council)

Parents and community members' value for the importance of the arts increases

The greatest increases were found in parents' understanding the value of exposing their children to the arts and overall parent and community awareness of arts in the schools.

- Parents understanding of the value of the arts increased. (Multiple Projects)
- A survey completed by parents shows a willingness to be much more involved in the classroom, including volunteering to assist with and teach art lessons, donating money for the arts, and chaperoning student field trips to performances or exhibitions. (Armory Center for the Arts)
- More than half (56%) of parent surveys indicated more school time should be devoted to the arts, and nearly three-quarters indicated they would attend a school-wide art day with their children. (Arts Council of Napa Valley)
- Parent surveys revealed that two-thirds of students talked to their parents about the arts in education project, that parents supported the project, and that parents noticed improvements in their child's confidence and enthusiasm. (Youth in Arts)

Overall statewide and individual findings demonstrate that arts in education projects can increase parent and community support for the arts. Parents and community members are willing and able to assist, but may be unaware of how to help. Schools and teachers would benefit by using the resources available through parents and local community members.



58 Demonstration Sites

NAME	CITY	COUNTY	AMOUNT
Aman Folk Ensemble	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$137,039
American Composers Forum	Whittier	Los Angeles	\$79,844
Armory Center for the Arts	Pasadena	Los Angeles	\$234,194
Arts Council of Napa Valley	Napa	Napa	\$140,873
Arts Council of Placer County	Auburn	Placer	\$86,745
Arts For The Schools	Tahoe Vista	Placer	\$209,967
Arts Orange County	Santa Ana	Orange	\$268,112
Aunt Lute Books	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$77,878
Brava! for Woman in the Arts	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$251,333
California College of Arts and Crafts	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$197,405
California Poets in the Schools	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$227,334
Cal Poly State University	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	\$269,189
Channel Islands Ballet	Oxnard	Ventura	\$83,987
Children's Creative Project	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	\$131,810
City of Glendale	Glendale	Los Angeles	\$191,489
City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division	Santa Monica	Los Angeles	\$250,894
City of San Diego, Commission for the Arts and Culture	San Diego	San Diego	\$209,967
Community Works	Berkeley	Alameda	\$161,052
Crocker Art Museum	Sacramento	Sacramento	\$197,869
CSU, L.A. Auxiliary Services	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$250,345
CSU, Sacramento – MOSAICS	Sacramento	Sacramento	\$243,345
Cultural Odyssey	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$132,710
East Bay Center for the Performing Arts	Richmond	Contra Costa	\$269,189
Forestville Union School District	Forestville	Sonoma	\$88,193
Four Seasons Community Development Corp.	Sacramento	Sacramento	\$130,500
Gualala Arts Inc.	Gualala	Mendocino	\$208,044
Institute for the Renewal of Modern Culture	Sebastopol	Sonoma	\$232,633
Los Angeles County Arts Commission	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$250,345
Los Angeles Philharmonic Association	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$234,194
Madera County Arts Council	Madera	Madera	\$66,220
Merced County Arts Council	Merced	Merced	\$207,151
Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA)	Oakland	Alameda	\$250,345
Ojai Festivals, Ltd	Ojai	Ventura	\$73,578
Opera Piccola	Oakland	Alameda	\$92,790
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation	Palo Alto	Santa Clara	\$197,517
Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County, Education Division	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$269,189

Performing Tree, Inc	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$199,467
Pioneer Union School District	Somerset	El Dorado	\$40,081
Playwrights Project	San Diego	San Diego	\$159,112
Pleasant Valley Elementary School District	Camarillo	Ventura	\$194,248
Plumas County Arts Commission	Quincy	Plumas	\$234,194
Rand	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$269,186
Riverside Arts Council	Riverside	Riverside	\$165,395
San Jose Children's Musical Theater	San Jose	Santa Clara	\$103,886
San Jose Repertory Theatre	San Jose	Santa Clara	\$44,147
Stagebridge	Oakland	Alameda	\$147,629
The California Institute of the Arts (CalArts)	Valencia	Los Angeles	\$234,194
The HeArt Project	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$136,457
The Performing Arts Workshop	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$161,520
UC Davis Presents	Davis	Yolo	\$147,156
Valley Center – Pauma Unified School District	Valley Center	San Diego	\$117,201
Vector Theater Conservatory	San Rafael	Marin	\$270,135
Willits Charter School	Willits	Mendocino	\$186,738
Young Audiences of San Jose and Silicon Valley	San Jose	Santa Clara	\$199,180
Young Audiences of the Bay Area	San Francisco	San Francisco	\$235,140
Young Imaginations	San Rafael	Marin	\$150,207
Youth In Arts	San Rafael	Marin	\$151,876
Yuba County Office of Education	Marysville	Yuba	\$209,967

TOTAL \$10,360,385

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La Dayle McCovey, Grade 4
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